GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4206
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
MURDER OF FOREST OFFICIALS
MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 490 dated March 4, 2002 and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be collected and laid on the Table of the House?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a), (b) & (c) : The requisite information which has since been collected from all the States and Union Territories except from the State of Jharkhand is at Annexure.

'Annexure'

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) (b) & (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.4206 due for answer on 12.8.2002

Sl.NO.	Name of State/UT	Whether several forest officials particularly of lower grade have been murdered in the forests during the last three years;	If so, the details thereof, State-wise	Whether the Government have taken any effective steps and	If so, the details thereof?
1.	J&K	Yes	One person namely Abdul Rehman Ganie, was murdered in the forests by the armed smugglers.	Yes	J&K Govt. has created a separate wing in the Forest Department called Protection Force which shall be equipped with weapons to curb down the activities of armed smugglers the Forest field staff in Protecting the Foresters as well as their lives.
2.	Uttar Predesh	Yes	1999-10 2000-06 2001-05 Total=21	Yes	Rifles/wireless sets are being gradually provided to the employees for their safety, within the available financial resources. Security Force with vehicles and arms have been provided in 19 Divisions under an officer of the level of Asstt. Conservator of Forests. Coordination Committee has been set up at District level also in vulnerable areas.
3.	Uttaranchal	Yes	Two forest guards and one forest assistant were killed in Dehradun Division. One Dy.	Yes	The communication net work has been strengthened.Fire arm training has been given to

	Range Officer was killed in Corbett Tiger Reserve and three forest guards were grievously hurt in the same incident.	staff.The power to use fire arms in Forest area and protected areas at par with Police Officers has been given. Secret fund for intelligence gathering has been provided for effective intelligence gathering and action against forest offenders.The ex-gratia payment to the next of the kin of forest officials, killed in such incidents has been fixed at par with Police Force and now the kin of the deceased will be given Rs.2.5 Lakhs.			
4. Assam	Yes Sixteen lower grade officers were killed. 1998-99 = 11 1999-00 = 02 2000-01 = 03 total = 16 Kidnapping = 7 Killing = 16 Assault = 139 Total = 162	Personnel are deployed in different areas to face the situation. The available force personnel are not sufficient considering the magnitude of the problem. Steps are being taken to take a concerted effort to meet the situation.	Yes	Assam Forest Protection Force	
5. Karnataka	Yes 1998 = 01 1999 = 03 Total = 04	Yes (i) Variety of arms and ammunition like pump-action guns is proposed to be provided to the staff involved in forest protection for their safety. (ii) It is proposed to provide night vision binoculars and night vision goggles, to the staff involved in protection work for their safety. (iii) Karnataka Forest Act has been amended to accommodate the provisions of Criminal Procedure Code wherein under Section 76 'A', forest officers are provided to use as much force and do as much injury to the persons and property to prevent the commission of any offence under the Karnataka Forest Act and Chapter VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.			
6. Bihar	Yes Four cases of murder of Forest employees have occurred during the last three years	Yes In sensitive areas like Sasaram, Munger, West Champaran and Patna, home guards and armed police has been made available by district authorities.In case of forest officers who have threat on their life, personal security guards have been provided.Efforts are being made to organise the forest protection force. A sum of Rs.202 lac has been given to ordinance factories for supply of 507 rifles and 2 lac rounds of ammunition. Out of this, 258 rifles are for Bihar State and rest for Jharkhand.As and when there is need for police for the security of forest personal as well as forest produce, police force is requisitioned. F.I.Rs have been lodged in the respective police stations and the matter is regularly monitored by Forest			

		Officials as well as Government Advocates. In case of murder of Sri Sanjay Kumar, IFS, CBI probe has been ordered.		
7. Tamil Nadu	Yes	1998-1999 = 01 1999-2000 = 03 2000-2001 = Nil 2001-2002 = 01(upto Feb.) Total = 05	Yes	To protect forest wealth and the lives of the Forest subordinates working in the sensitive and vulnerable areas, the Government have supplied fast moving vehicles, sophisticated weapons (Block-17 pistols purchased from Austria), besides providing communication facilities, such as telephone, wireless, walkie-talkie sets etc. to the subordinates. With the effective steps taken by the Department, the commission of Forest Offences has drastically come down.
8. Maharashtra	Yes	While patrolling, one forest labour was severally injured in an attack on 6.8.2000 by wood smugglers. Later he succumbed to injuries. Two other employees were also injured.	Yes	Wireless network has been installed in the 4-Circles i.e. Thane, Dhule, Chandrapur, Nagpur and the wildlife areas.Special forest stations are being created at vulnerable places. Arms are being provided with office & staff in near future. Regular beat checking is being done.Regular night patrolling is being done .Regular deployment of forest special Reserve Police force is used in vulnerable circles.Involving villager's participation in protecting forest through Joint Forest Management Scheme.
9. Manipur	Yes	One Forest Officer has been killed. Shri Kakai Haokip holding charge of Social Forestry Division was killed by unknown miscreants on the 21st day of March, 2002.	Yes	The State Government had provided security guards in the offices as per requirements. Individual Officer having threat perception are also provided with guard. The Department also is in close association with Police and other State and Central Security forces for control of Forest and Wildlife Offences and safety of the Officer.
10. Orissa	Yes	Sri Bhagaban Majhi, Ex-Forest Guard of Angul Division, and Sri Sudarsan Altia, Forester and Nandi Kishor Behera, Forest Guard of Phulbani Division were murdered during the year 1999 and 2000 respectively.	Yes	19 units comprise of 260 Nos. of Police personnel including 20 S.Is, 14 A.S.Is., 19 Havildars and 207 Constables. CRPF has been deployed in the Dhuanali and Berbara of Reserve Forest area. 249 Forest Check Gates have been established in to regulate the transit of Forest Produce. 469 V.H.F. sets have been installed. Besides 339 Guns and 61 Revolvers have also been supplied to the field protection staff.
11. Tripura	Yes	One Forest Guard, one Mali-cum-Watcher and a driver engaged on daily wages basis were killed in an extremist attack on a mobile forest	Yes.	Provisional family pension and Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity were sanctioned to the family of the deceased. They were also provided with special financial

patrol party at Krishnapur under Kalyanpur Police Station in Khowai Sub-Division of West Tripura District on 23.11.1999.

grant as per norms for Government servants killed in extremist violence/attack. Wives of both the deceased Forest Department employees have been given employment. The matter for providing employment to the wife of the deceased daily rated driver of the Forest Department is under consideration of the State Government.

12. Madhya Pradesh Yes 1.Sh. Munshilal Patel forest guard was murdered on 21.1.2002 and his body was found in compartment No.RF-366. This report of murder was lodged in Mingwani police station. Police had arrested the culprits and the case is subjudice.
2.A special grant of rs.1.00 lakh was given to the descendents of late Shri Munshilal Patel.

Yes. Special police force has been posted in sensitive forest areas. Group patrolling by forest staff started in forest areas to check forest offences.A network of wireless system has been created for the rapid exchange of information.557 guns of 12-bore make been provided by the Government to the forest staff.

Special grant of Rs.1.00 lakh is sanctioned to the dependents of deceased. Instruction have been issued to make use of police force for preventing forest offences.11,621 forest protection committees have been constituted to obtain public participation. Special task force has been constituted at the district level to prevent forest offence. District Collector, Superintendent of Police and Divisional Forest Officer are members of the task force.

13. Rajasthan Yes Two Forest Gurards viz. S/Sh. Sukhveer Singh and Daya Ram were murdered on 2.3.1999 and 24.6.1999 while performing duties during last three years. Challans submitted by Police in Court.

Yes In sensitive areas, forest officials engaged in the work of Forest & Wildlife protection have been provided with fire arms for self Defence. For fast communication, Wireless sets and walky talky sets have been made available to such staff.

14. Punjab Yes One Forest Guard Sh. Lakhwinder Singh has been murdered in the forests on 30.01.2002.

Yes The State Government has been approached to provide arms to the Forest Officers in the State for their defence.

15. West Bengal Yes 2 Nos. of employees have been murdered during the period:
1.Sh. Manindra Ch. Sarkar, Deputy Ranger/Forester was murdered during 1998-99.
2.Sh. Anil Roy, Banashramik was murdered during 2000-2001.

FIR Lodged at Local Police Station and investigation is on.

16. Meghalaya No Does not arise in view of reply at (a)

Yes Adequate protection measures have been taken to provide them with effective Arms and Wireless sets while performing their duties in the Forests. Armed Home Guards and Village Protection Volunteers are also posted to perform duties along with the Forest Staff in vulnerable areas.

17. Chandigarh Administration | No | Nil | Yes | Department has taken necessary steps to tackle such problem by providing wireless sets/guns and vehicle/ motor cycle to most of the field staff posted in the field.

18. Chhattisgarh | No | N/A | Yes | Wireless network established for quick communication and guns have been provided to the field staff particularly of Range Officer, Dy. Ranger. Foresters and Forest Guard, Special Armed forces have also been provided to assist the field staff in sensitive areas.

19. Kerala | No | N/A | Yes | For the effective protection of forest and forest employees, forest station system had been introduced in Kerala during 1988. So far , 88 Forest Stations have been established in 11 Territorial Divisions. Each territorial Circle is having one Special investigation and protection unit headed by one Assistant Conservator of Forests. In addition to the above, now two units of Rapid Action Forces are also formed with its headquarters at Konni and Nilambur. The Rapid Action Force consists of Forest Officials and Police Officials. The whole Forest area is covered with wireless communication.

20. Gujarat | No. | N.A. | Yes | State Govt. has provided guns to subordinate Forest Staff and revolvers to Range Forest Officers for self protection. The District Administration in cooperation with police assist Forest Officials as and when situation demands

21. Andhra Pradesh	No	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
22. Arunachal Pr.	No	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
23. Haryana	No	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
24. Sikkim	No	N.A	N.A.	N.A.
25. Pondicherry	No	N.A	N.A.	N.A.
26. Daman & Diu	No	N.A	N.A.	N.A.
27. Lakshadweep	No	N.A	N.A.	N.A.
28. Himachal Pr.	No	N.A	N.A.	N.A.
29. Nagaland	No	N.A	N.A.	N.A.
30. Delhi	No	N.A	N.A.	N.A.
31. D & N Haveli	Nil	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
32. A & N Islands	No	N.A	N.A	N.A.
33. Panaji/Goa	No	N.A	N.A	N.A.
34. Mizoram	No	N.A	N.A	N.A.
35. Jharkhand	Information Not Received			